



Building a home? An addition? A shed? A deck? Remodeling?

Construction work, whether it is a shed, a deck or an entire Subdivision, can change the conditions on your property. The very nature of construction work creates a number of conditions on your property that provide breeding sites for mosquitoes.

While working on your property take precautions to minimize and control potential breeding sites.

Eliminate standing water or treat your work site with Mosquito Dunks® or other larvicides to help reduce the chances for mosquitoes to breed.



Tire tracks, open trenches, silt fences or piles of dirt can hold water and breed mosquitoes



Buckets, cans, discarded boxes, mixers, or old appliances can hold water and breed mosquitoes.



Dumpsters with construction waste can hold water and breed mosquitoes.



If water ponds on your job site for more than 5 to 7 days, you could be breeding mosquitoes.



On large job sites, contact a mosquito control professional and have your site treated with larvicides as needed. Protect yourself, your workers and your neighbors as you build.



FAIRFAX COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT
www.fairfaxcounty.gov/fightthebite

MAY 2004-E

Eliminate Standing Water

**There are things
that YOU CAN DO!**



The most effective way to control mosquitoes is to eliminate or treat the standing water there mosquitoes lay their eggs and their larvae live and grow. Once an adult mosquito has emerged from its water-breeding site, air-borne chemical spraying provides only temporary relief.

WHAT TO DO?

If mosquitoes are a problem where you live, make sure that you are not providing breeding sites in your own yard. Most mosquitoes are poor fliers. If you are being bitten, they are probably breeding around your home or worksite. Mosquitoes prefer to breed in all sorts of still water held in artificial containers.

Running streams and creeks with any water movement or ponds with predators such as fish, frogs, and dragonflies are not good breeding sites for mosquitoes. Mosquitoes need only a few table-spoons of water to breed. **CHECK THE FOLLOWING:**

- ✓ **Roof gutters** — clean out leaves and debris frequently to ensure water flows freely and does not accumulate.
- ✓ **Flexible plastic pipes for downspout drainage** — Grooves in plastic pipes can hold enough water to breed mosquitoes. Treat with a larvicide.
- ✓ **Buckets, watering cans, drinking glasses, plastic cups, bottle caps, or any trash that can hold water** — store indoors or turn over. If trash, recycle or throw away.
- ✓ **Cans & containers** — throw away, store indoors, turn upside down, drill holes in the bottom, or empty after rain showers.
- ✓ **Old tires** — recycle, or store where they won't collect rainwater. For playground use, drill water drainage holes. Call **703-324-5230** for disposal information.
- ✓ **Bird baths** — change the water or flush out and clean with a garden hose at least once a week.
- ✓ **Ornamental ponds** — stock with fish (fish eat mosquito larvae), or filter/aerate the water with a recirculation pump, or treat with a larvicide as needed.
- ✓ **Puddles and wet, soggy areas** — drain the water or fill with dirt or other landscaping material. Treat the area with a larvicide.
- ✓ **Drainage ditches and culverts** — allow water to flow or drain freely by clearing debris, and grass/weed clippings. Treat with a larvicide as needed.
- ✓ **Tarps on woodpiles and garden equipment** — empty water that collects in folds and sagging areas. Tighten or straighten so water runs off.
- ✓ **Wheelbarrows** — turn over when not in use.



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